

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Friday, August 17, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W125 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Greg Bell, Senate Chair
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow
Sen. Peter Knudson
Sen. Dennis E. Stowell
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Rep. Ron Bigelow

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Ms. Allison Morgan Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Holdaway called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Sen. Dmitrich was excused from attending the meeting due to the tragic developments at the coal mine near Price. Chair Holdaway held a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives in the mine disaster.

MOTION: Rep. Brown moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stowell, Rep. Moss, and Rep. Urquhart were absent for the vote.

2. Applied Technology Education Options

Mr. Richard Kendell, Commissioner, USHE (Utah System of Higher Education), distributed a handout, "Recommendations for the Higher Education Task Force Regarding the Utah College of Applied Technology." He reviewed a list of six recommendations and explained the recommended policy options to better integrate and coordinate UCAT (Utah College of Applied Technology) as part of the Utah System of Higher Education.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. Space Utilization - The Board of Regents, in cooperation with the UCAT Board of Trustees, should conduct a space utilization study for the UCAT campuses.
2. Facilities Master-Planning - The Board of Regents, in cooperation with the UCAT Board of Trustees, should conduct a facilities master plan projecting capital needs of UCAT campuses for the next five-to ten-year periods.
3. Partnering for Capital Facilities - UCAT should explore and exhaust all options for sharing facilities and creating partnerships for new facilities with other USHE institutions and school districts.
4. Budgeting - The UCAT budget should be presented to the Board of Regents for review and discussion at the same time as other institutional budgets are presented.
5. Capital Facilities Requests - UCAT capital facilities requests and priorities should be presented to the Board of Regents for review and discussion at the same time as other capital facilities requests are made.

6. Degree Programs - The Board of Regents and UCAT Board of Trustees should authorize the creation of partnerships across institutions to create career pathways and degree programs resulting in the development of Associate of Science and Applied Science degrees.

Commissioner Kendell indicated the UCAT Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents recognize the benefits of bringing the UCAT budget and capital facilities to the Board of Regents for review and discussion.

Mr. Jared Haines, Vice President and currently acting president, UCAT, noted that he and Commissioner Kendell have reviewed the recommendations together and said many of the recommendations are issues they are working on and have undertaken.

Mr. Kirt Michaelis, Vice President, Administrative Services, UCAT, responded to task force questions regarding space utilization.

Ms. Collette Mercier, President, Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College, commented on apprenticeship programs and degree programs. She asserted that a few associate applied technology degrees offered by some applied technology colleges may be advisable, specifically degrees that emphasize apprenticeship.

Mr. Darrell K. White, USHE, commented on academic credits and introduced Mr. Richard L. Maughan, President, Bridgerland Applied Technology College, to address this issue.

Mr. Maughan noted that Bridgerland Applied Technology College will be meeting with the three vice presidents from CEU (College of Eastern Utah) to look at the possibility of offering associate degrees to Bridgerland Applied Technology College students through CEU.

3. Capital Facilities Planning Process

Mr. Gregg Buxton, Director, DFCM (Division of Facilities and Construction Management), gave a presentation on capital facilities management and planning. He asked Mr. Kent Beers, Assistant Director, DFCM, to give an overview of the division's capital development process.

Mr. Beers distributed a handout, "FY2009 Capital Development Requests," and gave an overview of how the Utah State Building Board ranks capital facility projects for funding.

Mr. Buxton commented on the escalating costs of capital projects.

Mr. Larry Jardine, Chairman, Utah State Building Board, commented on the agency's building list and the ranking of building projects. He stated that the Building Board's ranking process has become more quantitative over the last four years.

Commissioner Kendell stated USHE has established the Q&P process to prioritize the need for new buildings.

Mr. Mark Spencer, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Facilities, USHE, distributed and briefly reviewed the contents of "Higher Education Capital Facilities." He also distributed a document explaining the Q&P process, "Utah System of Higher Education - The Q&P Made Easy."

4. Higher Education Compensation

Mr. Spencer reviewed a handout, "Higher Education Compensation & Salary Equity Study Information," that was distributed in the mailing packet. He explained that the Commissioner biannually performs a salary equity study for higher education employees.

Mr. Spencer distributed and discussed "Report on Uses of Faculty and Salary Retention Funds - FY2006." He reported that the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million to the fund to address specific personnel issues at institutions; for example, an institution may use the funds to increase the salary of and retain key faculty.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair Holdaway indicated that the next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for September 20, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Stowell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Holdaway adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.